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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1943 No. 40

M. STALIN, *who has helped greatly in the formation of " a single international camp for the fight against the menace of world domination by Hitlerism," and paved the way for " a future organization of a companionship of nations based upon their equality."*

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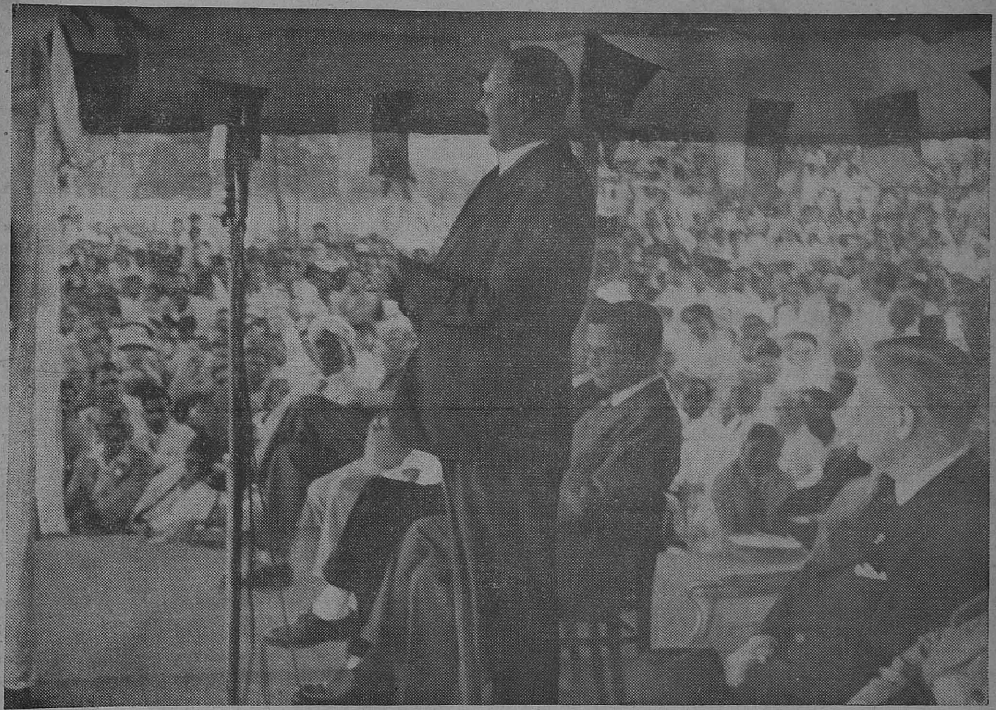


UNITED NATIONS DAY IN MADRAS.—His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Provincial Leader of the National War Front, is seen addressing the gathering. Seated near him are representatives of American, Chinese, French and Greek Nationalities, who spoke on the occasion. —*W.J.M.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

United Nations Day—H.E. Sir Arthur Hope on the Future.

The United Nations Day was celebrated in a fitting manner by the citizens of Madras on Monday last. Huge crowds gathered at the S.I.A.A. grounds and took part in the celebrations held under the auspices of the National War Front, with great enthusiasm. The portraits of Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress, Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt, M. Stalin, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and General de Gaulle were carried in procession in carts decorated with the flags of the United Nations. Representatives of United Nations addressed a public meeting which was held under the presidency of H.E. Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras and Provincial Leader of the National War Front.

His Excellency, addressing the gathering, said that about this time last year things did not look well, even though they were naturally hopeful of the final result, but things had now changed considerably in every quarter of the world war; the Allies were no longer on the defensive, but were on the offensive in almost every part of the world. Referring to the importance of unity among the nations, His Excellency observed: "It is unity that has got us now, after $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of war, so much more forward to victory; it is unity that has to get us final victory sooner or later; and it is unity that is going to cleanse the world of Nazism, Fascism and Japanese military aggression." In conclusion, His Excellency said, "I hope and pray that, by this time next year, we may be able to celebrate perhaps the finishing of the war, or the finishing of a major part of the war."

The citizens of Madras, and the people of Madras Presidency as a whole, join His Excellency in hoping and praying for an early end of the war and a speedier elimination of the forces of evil.

R.A.F. Bombardment of Ruhr Valley—The Seat of German Heavy Industries.

An Air Ministry Communique issued on Sunday announced that aircraft of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command attacked in great strength the Central Ruhr with Bochum as the main target. This is an important coal and iron town and is one of the main transport centres in the Ruhr. Big chemical plants and other industries, including branches of the Krupps Combine, are located in this town, which is stated to be a difficult target because of the fact that it is frequently screened by fog and smoke. The raid carried out on Bochum on Sunday was the third big raid of this year, and it is stated that over five 4,000 lb. bombs were sent down every minute. The first raid was on March 29, when it was the main target of the Royal Air Force night bombers. The second raid was on May 13 when over 1,000 tons of bombs were dropped on the town. There have also been a number of very heavy air attacks on other towns in the Ruhr Valley, such as Essen, Duisburg and Dortmund. On Dortmund alone over 2,000 tons of bombs were dropped in one hour on May 23. It was the heviest air attack ever made on Germany or any other country up to that date.

The attacks on these centres of heavy industry and transport in the Ruhr are not so much raids, as bombardments, which may be compared to an artillery barrage by massed heavy batteries. One result of such attacks was, it may be recalled, the breaching of the Ruhr dams which caused great havoc by floods. The effects of this flood havoc are bound to be more serious in the long run, because of the great damage likely to be caused by subsequent drought and because of the heavy strain on the transport system as it will not be possible to maintain water levels in the canals.

Why is it that the Ruhr is the chief target of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command ? It is because it contains a concentration of industry which is without parallel on the Continent of Europe. The Ruhr basin produces about two-thirds of the total of hard coal output of the whole of Germany and contains the finest deposit of coking coal in Europe. That is why it is the site of the greatest part of the German iron and steel industry. Contrary to what is generally believed, there has been no appreciable movement of heavy industry from the Ruhr to safer areas. Germany's principal heavy industries continue to be retained in the Ruhr-Rhineland area.

* * * * *

"City by City"—Blotting out German War Production.

The policy of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command is to carry out, city by city, a methodical blotting out of German war production. But can Germany be knocked out of the war by bombing alone ? Of course, not. But the fact remains that the tremendous and sustained bombardment of German industrial centres will undermine Germany's capacity for resistance when invasions from widely separated quarters begin to impose the maximum possible strain upon a weakened war potential and a disrupted transport system.

It has now been fairly well understood that a successful attack on the ground must be preceded by an air battle, and this has been conclusively proved in the Western Desert and in Tunisia. Air battles of the kind staged over the Ruhr are a preliminary to a decisive air duel between the Anglo-American Air Force and the Luftwaffe, and this duel is a prelude to a successful invasion of Europe. The tremendous British air offensive against Germany, its growing American support, are already bringing about a progressive destruction of the enemy's war potential and establishing supremacy in the air over the Luftwaffe.

Only Way to Berlin—Paralyse German war Power.

The need for the massed bombing of the kind carried out by the Royal Air Force has been clearly visualized by Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR and Lord TRENCHARD. Speaking sometime ago, Britain's Secretary of State for Air said, "There is only one hope of getting to Berlin without the slaughter which land battles in the last war entailed, and that is paralysis of German war power by the Bomber Command." Air Marshal Lord TRENCHARD said, "An attack by armies on Germany can only be successful, as in the last war, with, appalling casualties, unless, through previous bombing, the whole organization behind the armies is demoralized and destroyed as it is steadily becoming in Germany."

* * * * *

United Nations' Merchant Shipping situation—More U-boat sinkings.

Hitler's most trusted weapon for prolonging the war towards a stalemate is the U-boat. It is also the greatest single obstacle to concurrent Allied offensives east and west. But it is gratifying to note that there is a progressive destruction of the U-boats. Last month, May 1943, the number of U-boats sunk have probably exceeded the number brought into service in the same period. The fact that the sinkings of U-boats have increased considerably may be gathered from a statement furnished to the House of Commons on June 2 by Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the British Admiralty. He pointed out that, for every four U-boats sunk in the six months ended November 30, 1942, five had been sunk in the six months ended May 31, 1943. During the past one year, more U-boats have been destroyed than in the preceding two years and nine months. Compared with 1942 the first five months of 1943 have shown a substantial reduction in merchant shipping losses.

The great improvement in the merchant shipping situation has undoubtedly been due to the British and American air bombardment of U-boat bases and building yards. It also reflects, so far as the Battle of the Atlantic is concerned, the growing size of the Allied escort forces and the growing total of new weapons and devices. Towards the end of last month, Mr. Anthony Eden, in a speech at Portsmouth, said :

> "The news of the Battle of the Atlantic continues to be encouraging. Our own new construction of merchant ships is still mounting, our merchant shipping losses are still decreasing, and the sinking of U-boats is still increasing. *The Battle of the U-boat still rages. It is not yet decided, but at least we feel better about it than we have done.*"

Referring to the increase in output of Allied shipping, Mr. Churchill said in his address to the American Congess in Washington on May 19, that the prodigious output of new ships from American ship-building yards during the past six months surpassed the losses of both Allies. It may be noted that, during the last two months, April and May 1943, United States shipyards contributed an addition of 2,413,600 gross tons to the United Nations' merchant fleet as compared with 748,440 gross tons for the corresponding period in 1942.

* * * * *

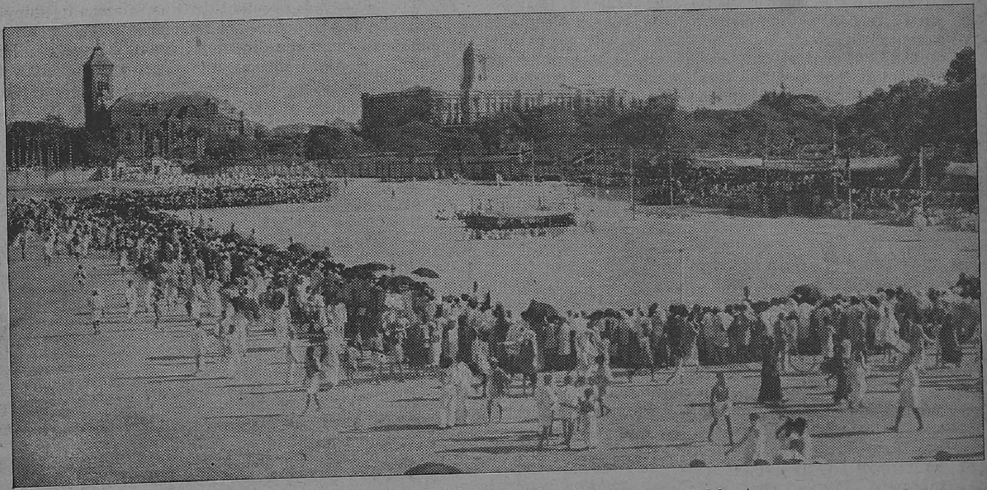
Berlin Radio Claims—Rise and Fall of Figures.

American output has, it may be stated, increased by 222 per cent, but Berlin's fantastic claims have fallen by 44 per cent. Hitler said on April 26, last year, that the German U-boat was the "principal weapon" against Britain. He declared,

> "What our submarines are capable of accomplishing will be continually shown more clearly, month by month."

Let us see the month-by-month accomplishment. Before Hitler made this statement, the monthly claims made by Berlin radio for the first four months of 1942

The UNITED NATIONS DAY was a gala day for the citizens of Madras. Above (left) *is a view of the gathering near the special* shamiana, *and* (right) *a section of the huge crowd.* —*W.J.M.*



A general view of the crowd that witnessed the United Nations Day Celebrations. —*W.J.M.*

averaged 554,325 gross tons. In the remaining eight months of 1942 the average increased to 855,785 gross tons. But in the first five months of 1943 the average has fallen to 575,720 gross tons.

It is also of interest to compare Berlin's claim for the last two months with those of the corresponding months of 1941 and 1942. The April claim for 1941 was 1,000,000; for 1942, 585,000; for 1943, 423,000 gross tons. For May 1941 Berlin's claim was 861,460; for the same month in 1942 it was 924,000. In May 1943, the claim came down to 430,000. **A year ago American output was exceeded by Berlin claims by 102 per cent, but now American output exceeds the Berlin claims by 183 per cent.**

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U-boat Propaganda—Marked Change in Tone and Trend of Berlin.

There has also been a marked change in the tone and trend of Berlin propaganda in regard to U-boats. The usual theme had always been that the German U-boat arm was an invincible weapon which was destined to achieve ever increasing successes month by month. On November 22, 1942, Berlin said, "Axis submarines are successfully operating in all the waters of the world destroying Allied shipping almost every minute of the day. The British and Americans cannot stand these heavy losses for long." On January 1, 1943 Berlin said, "The German U-boat arm is becoming a

(*Continued on page* 9)

RUSSIA: REVIEW OF TWO YEARS OF WAR

THE SECOND FRONT WILL BRING RELIEF

When the "Second Front" opens, the pressure on Russia will be relieved.

ON Tuesday next (June 22), the war in Russia enters on its third year, perhaps the final year. Two years ago, Hitler attacked Russia without any provocation or warning. This caused a great world sensation. For Russo-German relations had become one of friendship by the non-aggression pact of 23rd August 1939 and though there were doubts of German loyalty to the Pact, few expected that Germany would go to the length of launching a great attack on Russia. When Germany invaded the Balkans, Russia signified its disapproval indirectly more than once. Germany feared Russia and Russia prepared to defend herself against Germany. Troops concentrated on both sides of the Frontier. And then Germany struck. In spite of the unexpectedness of the attack, there was no unpreparedness on the part of Russia. The resistance of the Red Army to German aggression revealed elaborate preparation and years of training.

SO far as the Allies were concerned, Mr. Churchill gave the correct lead. "This is no class war," he declared, "and if Hitler imagines that his attack on Soviet Russia will cause the slightest division of aims or slackening of effort in the great democracies who are resolved upon his doom, he is woefully mistaken." Hitler miscalculated—he never bargained for the fact that Britain and Russia would fight shoulder to shoulder against Nazism and Fascism. Let us review the course and the result of this miscalculation.

The First Offensive

IN their initial assault the Germans selected for their main thrust the White Russian front, covering Smolensk and Moscow. On the third day of the offensive, the Germans passed south of Vilna and the Russians fell back on Minsk. After nine days' fighting, capture of Minsk was announced. On reaching Borisov on the river Beresina the Germans were held for many days. By the middle of the third week, the initial impetus had been lost and the first stage of the assault had begun to weaken. The pace of the first German drive had been 20 miles a day, and Russia lost Lithuania, most of Latvia, the western half of White Russia and part of the Western Ukraine. The first German thrusts were of a threefold character. They were directed towards Leningrad via Finland and Esthonia, towards Moscow through Minsk and Smolensk, and towards Kiev, the Ukrainian capital in the south. The Russians attempted only to hold the Germans in check. In the course of a few days, Stalin perfected a system of highly flexible defences and appointed Marshal Voroshilov to the North-western, Marshal Timoshenko to the Central, and Marshal Budenny to the South-west sectors. These three generals maintained contact throughout the campaign and avoided all possibility of encirclement.

The Second Offensive

ON July 11, 1941, the Germans mounted their second offensive. Vitebsk fell after fierce fighting, and the Germans claimed that the route to Moscow was open. Five days later, their armoured units reached Smolensk. The pace of this second thrust was 12½ miles a day. But Leningrad was in great danger as Talinin and Hango had become beleagured towns, while to the south the Germans had advanced from Volynsk to Zitomir, 85 miles west of Kiev. But here Timoshenko held up the German plans for about a month at the Smolensk salient. His pressure around Smolensk pinned down German forces and stayed them in their drive against Leningrad, while it also deflected German attention from East Ukraine and the Donetz basin By the end of August, however, Kingisepp in the north had to be evacuated, and Novogorod was captured by the German army. This brought them very near the Leningrad-Moscow railway line. The Finns captured Viborg and the Germans Talinn, and Marshal Voroshilov in an Order of the Day asked the citizens of Leningrad to defend the City to the last. In the second week of September, the Germans captured the fortress of Schlusselburg and the enemy was now within 15 to 20 miles of Leningrad. From this time onwards Leningrad was in a state of siege.

IN the Centre, on account of German pressure in the Gomel area, Smolensk had to be evacuated, while in the South Kiev was in danger, and Dnepropetrovsk had to be evacuated.

ALLIED AIR TO RUSSIA.—Huge quantities of military supplies from the United States are flowing to Russia through Iran, the ancient land of Persia, under America's lend-lease programme. Unloaded from Allied freighters at ports on the Persian Gulf, the supplies are transported by railroad and by truck convoy over deserts and mountains to Soviet military centers near the Caspian Sea. Here a long truck convoy, manned by Americans, stops to put anti-skid chains on the wheels before entering a dangerous pass through snow-covered mountains somewhere on the Iranian supply route. In the foreground are horse-drawn carts, used before the arrival of American rolling equipment.

IN a vigorous drive in October, which began on the 3rd, Kalanin, Kaluga, Vyezma, Orel, and Briansk around Moscow fell before the German onslaught. In the south, the Russians evacuated Odessa, and in the Ukraine the Germans reached the shores of the Sea of Azov by taking Mariupol, Melitopol and Berdiansk. They attacked the Perikop peninsula, and after taking Kharkov and Stalino broke through to the Crimea.

The Drive towards Moscow

BY the first half of November, the Russians held the approaches to Moscow at Tula. In the South the Germans reached Kursk, captured Fedosia in the Crimea, and Rostov. On 16th November the final assault on Moscow was begun by Germans an event foreshadowed in Hitler's order of the day on 2nd October. Meanwhile by the end of November the situation in the South was very serious. The Russians lost the factories and mines in the Donetz basin, evacuated Simferopol, capital of Crimea, as well as Kerch, while the German army advanced as far as Rostov. The only place which still held out was Sebastopol. It was at this stage that Hitler turned his attention to Moscow, and it was the gallant defence of Moscow that averted a general disaster. This drive towards Moscow which Hitler wanted to take before the winter set in pinned the best German army to this place, and gave Timoshenko time to reorganize his army in the South.

BY the time winter set in Germany could boast of spectacular successes; but final victory was still eluding her grasp. The net result up to now was that Germans had reached the environs of Leningrad, had encircled Moscow on three sides, advanced beyond Yeletz in the Central Sector, overrun the Western Ukraine and the Crimea, and entered the town of Rostov. They had dislocated the industrialized areas of Leningrad, captured the Tula-Moscow industrial region with its principal centres of textile industry, the vast network of communications, the great motor works and machine-tool factories.

BUT the greatest blow of all to Russia was the loss of a major part of the Ukraine, rich in agriculture and industry. The four great Ukrainian towns of Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa and Dnepropetrovsk had been lost to the Germans and with them was lost a great industrial centre for coal and iron. On November 22, 1941 the Russian fortunes were at their lowest ebb. Rostov was in German hands in the South, and Tikhvin in the North.

"Scorched-Earth" Policy

IT was, however, impossible for the German army to regard these achievements as anything in the nature of a triumph. The Russian army followed such a ruthless policy of "scorched earth" that the Germans found, wherever they reached, nothing but devastation and despair, a sight which would gratify no conqueror. "Not a single locomotive, not a single coach, not a single kilogram of bread, not a litre of fuel must be left for the enemy," was Stalin's order; and the Dnieprostroi Dam, the pride of modern Russia, was destroyed before the invader could lay his unholy hands on it.

ANOTHER thing which struck dismay into the heart of the Germans was guerilla warfare. Ambush awaited the Germans on every road, and at every turn. A guerilla bullet would come from behind some bush or corner. This kind of warfare had only a nuisance value; but it upset many of the plans of the German High Command. A remarkable feature of the Russian programme was the transfer of industries to areas in eastern Russia, far from the reach of the invader. Wherever the Russians could save their plants and machinery, they did it and transferred them to the far flung areas of Siberia and the Urals; and where they could not save, they destroyed. The aluminium tractor and the machine-tool factories of Kiev, Odessa and Kharkov were transferred to Sverdlovsk, Khigir and Magnitogorsk, all in the Ural region beyond the Volga. The aircraft factories of Leningrad were literally packed up in boxes and removed to Kazan, while the tank factories were taken to Sverdlovsk and Teheljabinsk.

Allied Aid to Russia

THE Russians thus managed to keep up their level of production in spite of heavy losses. And their productive capacity was augmented by an uninterrupted flow of Allied aid from Britain and America. The Lease-Lend facilities were extended to Russia, and a great supply of tanks, guns and aircraft began to flow. New routes had been developed to send the goods, and the Persian and Indian supply lines as well as the Archangel route were perfected by intensive engineering works. The Lend-Lease agreement was later revised in Washington. It provided that the ultimate settlement of the Lend-Lease obligations "shall be such as not to burden commerce, but expand production, employment, exchange and consumption of goods."

The First Winter Campaign (1941 December to 1942 February)

THEN came the first Russian winter campaign. Its object was not to give the Germans time to dig in around Leningrad, Moscow and ostov. On 6th December the Russian counter attack started and the Germans began a large-scale retreat on 10th December. The first phase of the Russian counter-offensive was the removal of the two dangerous salients, north and south of Moscow, which involved the loss for the Germans of Klin, Kalinin, Yeletz, Stalinogorsk, Kaluga and Majaisk. The immediate danger to Moscow was thus removed. Tikhvin was also recaptured and Leningrad was saved from being completely cut off from Moscow, while in the south Timoshenko cleared the Germans from Rostov, the gateway of the Caucasus. It was also Russian stragety to establish salients into German lines, which resulted in large German forces being encircled at Rzhev, Vyazma and Staraya Russa.

ON June 21, 1942, M. Kalinin declared in the *Izvestia* that the Germans were not in a position to launch a wide offensive then as they did the previous year. The Germans, however, held important positions from orth to south—Schlusselburg, Novgorod, Staraya Russa, Rzhev, Vyazma, Smolensk, Briansk, Orel Kursk, Kharkov and Taganrog. But Hitler finding his previous Moscow venture a terrible waste and loss began the second summer campaign in the south on a restricted front.

Anglo-Russian Treaty

MEANTIME on May 26, 1942, the Anglo-Russian Treaty was signed as a Coping-stone to the arch of friendship and understanding. The Russian Trade Union Delegation also visited Britian and a demand became manifest in Britain for the opening of a second front.

THIS time Russia took the initiative and started the offensive in the Ukraine under General Timoshenko, and besides the threat to Kharkov which became manifest, it threatened railway communications through out the wide strip of country lying between the Dnieper and the Ukranian frontier. These railways were vital to Germany for the intended offensive further south into the Caucasus. Therefore, General Timoshenko's attack, started on the 12th May 1942, virtually forestalled the German offensive and gained for Timashenko the initiative. The Kharkov offensive was a great victoy for Timoshenko; but Hitler still had great concentrations in the Stalino area, at Kiev, behind Briansk and at Smolensk.

BY this time the Germans launched a fierce offensive against Sebastopol in the Crimea on June 8, 1942. This city was already under a siege for over seven months and a fresh attempt was made to take it. On the 30th the German army also struck at Kursk and east of Kharkov. The drive was aimed at capturing Rostov.

Fall of Sebastopol

THE siege of Sebastopol was one of the startling events in this campaign. This city was attacked now by ten of the best German divisions, besides Rumanian troops, by an air force of 1,000 planes and by some of the best German artillery. And Sebastopol fell into German hands on 2nd July 1942.

MEANTIME the battle of the Don had begun in right earnest. It was described as the toughest battle of the year and next to the seige of Sebastopol, the defence of Voronezh in the Don basin was the most thrilling event of the summer campaign. The battle of Voronezh was a battle for wheat and the magnificient stand successfully made by the Russian army is one of the historic achievements of Timoshenko.

IT is well to remember at this juncture that Hitler primarily intended by the present campaign to get hold of Russian supplies of wheat and oil. His drive against Voronezh and the Don was for the wheat; the drive against the Caucasus was for the oil. In the course of the campaign against the Caucasus, Rostov once again came into German hands on 28th July 1942, and the first phase of the present Nazi offensive ended here. In three weeks in the course of this campaign the Germans added 60,000 square miles to their conquest of Russia.

Siege of Stalingrad

THE next important event in this campaign was the seize of Stalingrad. By the first week of August, the German armies crossed the Don south-east of Kletskaya in great strength, and this armoured spearhead was met and held 30 miles north-west of Stalingrad. By the end of the month, it became clear that the battle of the Don was becoming the battle of Stalingrad itself, which was more or less assuming the form of a siege.

THROUGHOUT September, October and part of November, the Stalingrad siege continued. In the South Novorossisk was evacuated by the Red Army on the 13th September and the Black Sea fleet retired to bases at Batum and Poti.

BY the end of the Summer campaign in 1942 the Germans had finally entrenched themselves near Stalingrad and having crossed the Don had swept into northern and central Caucasia, threatened the important points of Novorossisk, Tuapse and Grozny by their advance. This offensive was in the nature of a sweep across the Donetz through the Don elbow southward into the Northern Caucasus.

German Plans upset

THE second summer offensive, just reviewed, though restricted in the extent of its front was as ambitious in its conception as the previous summer campaign against Moscow. It aimed at capturing the resources of Russia in East Ukraine, Astrakhan and the Caucasus and proceeding to the Middle East in order to join Rommel's forces which were sweeping across the Libyan Desert towards Egypt. But two things forestalled this ambitious programme of Corporal Hitler: the Russian winter set in earlier this time, and Stalingrad unexpectedly upset all German plans.

Second Winter offensive

THE Russian winter offensive began on the 19th of November 1942. The course of the campaign showed that the strategic plan of the German Command of capturing Stalingrad, cutting the Central European part of the Soviet Union from the Volga and the Ural area, and surrounding and taking Moscow, was built on sand. In sharp contrast to this plan was the Soviet High Command's strategy which was to surround and cut the German forces on the approaches to Stalingrad. This plan was carried into effect by Russian troops during November and December 1942 in three stages. The first stage was the offensive of the Russian troops northwest and southwest of Stalingrad. The second was the offensive in the area of the middle Don. The third stage of the offensive was south of Stalingrad. The German High Command, having led its troops at Stalingrad into a blind alley and having brought them to the brink of catastrophe undertook a desperate attempt to relieve its troops surrounded by the Red Army at Stalingrad. With that object in view the enemy concentrated in the area north of Kotelnikovo a considerable force, and on December 12 launched an offensive against the Russian army. Soviet troops operating south of Stalingrad routed the new enemy concentration, rolled the Germans south and deprived them of the last chance of breaking through to the German divisions surrounded at Stalingrad. The direction of the campaign was in the hands of General Zhukov.

BY 31st January 1943 the siege of Stalingrad had been lifted and an admiring world heaved a sigh of relief at the successful termination of the epic struggle of the Russian army. A huge Nazi army and booty had been captured, and sixteen German Generals were taken prisoners. History has not yet recorded a more thrilling episode than Stalingrad.

SIMULTANEOUSLY in the south the winter offensive was an unmixed success for the Russians. One hundred and two divisions of the Nazis were routed in the Caucasus and the Kuban area. Rostov, Kharkov, Veliki Luki and Mozdok fell, one by one, into Russian hands and the defeat of the Nazis was so complete that Dr. Goebbels began holding up Russia as an impending menace to European civilization. In the north a siege of sixteen months around the city of Leningrad was lifted by the middle of January 1943 by the storming of the German fortress of Schlusselburg by the Russians, and the Red army made contact with the heroic garrison of a great city beloved of its people.

THERE is a comparative calm on the Russian front. As usual, it is a prelude to a great storm. The summer offensive of 1943 will perhaps be more fierce than the previous campaigns, but the burden on Russia will be lessened. A Second Front as such will be opened in the West, and it will bring relief to Russia. Simultaneously perhaps Russia will strike, and the two great blows will merge into one, which will bring about the complete annihilation of the Axis forces.

RUNNING COMMENTARY—*Continued from page 5*

more fearful weapon from month to month . . . It certainly does not look as if the German U-boats are going to be the first to give up the race." About two weeks afterwards, Berlin boasted: "No satisfactory method of combating the U-boat has been devised; neither direct defensive measures nor the building of new ships have had the desired results." On February 6, 1943, Berlin declared. "The British Empire is in danger of being annihilated by the periscopes. Allied shipping losses are increasing day by day."

Let us contrast these statements with recent Berlin broadcasts. On May 6, the Berlin radio quoted the following commentary by Vice-Admiral Luetzow:—

"It is not to be hoped that the submarine successes will mount steadily in view of the fact that, after a month of intense activity, some of the U-boats usually have to return to their bases . . . . the enemy left no stone unturned to defend himself successfully against the submarines."

At the end of last month, a Berlin broadcast in German quoted the following passage from *Voelkischer Beobachter*:—

"Even in times of fewer sinkings our submarine arm forces the enemy to fight incessantly . . . . Even should there be some fluctuation in the figures of vessels sunk, the U-boat war still goes on".

In a talk entitled "Facts and Fiction" Berlin said in an English broadcast on the first of this month:—

"There is no denying the fact that there has been another let-up in the figures of enemy tonnage sunk . . . . Any and every chance is being used to increase defence measures. This had resulted in a drop in U-boat successes."

It would thus be seen that the statements of Allied leaders that the war against U-boats is showing encouraging results are confirmed, in a large measure, by the Berlin radio itself. After all is said and done, the fact remains that the U-boats have so far failed to prevent the growing increase of the United Nations merchant fleet.

DISSOLUTION OF THE COMINTERN

By WICKHAM STEED

NO political event in this war has surpassed in importance the dissolution of the Communist International or the Comintern in Russia. Military events have had greater immediate significance, such as the Battle of Britain in 1940, Hitler's attack on Russia in June 1941, Japan's attack on the United States in December 1941, and destruction or capture of the Axis armies in North Africa.

These military events put final victory beyond the reach of Axis Powers. Yet there remained the danger that dislike of the international revolutionary policy attributed to the Comintern might cause disagreement among the United Nations upon the conditions of peace. It was feared that they might win victory only to loose peace. Now this danger has been dispelled. The anger and dismay, revealed by the German comment upon the dissolution of the Comintern, proceed from the recognition that the chief ideological foundation of the Axis has been shattered. This foundation was the anti-Comintern pact concluded in Berlin between Germany and Japan. Italy had already subscribed to the principles of this pact and afterwards adhered to it formally. All the accomplices and the satellites of the Axis have been required to accept it. Its object was to create an anti-Bolshevist front throughout the world as a cloak for the predatory designs of Germany, Italy and Japan.

MISGIVINGS RELIEVED.

Nor should it be forgotten that the peace proposals recently made by the Spanish leaders still echoed the doctrine that Russian Communism was the chief danger to mankind. Even in the Allied countries, particularly in the United States, the propaganda of the local Communist Parties had undeniably caused misgivings about the ultimate policy of Soviet Russia. Upon these misgivings the German propaganda played ceaselessly.

Now that the misgivings are relieved, if not dispelled, German propaganda must seek new arguments. One obvious German argument is that the dissolution of the Comintern is a mere trick, an insincere pretence which changed nothing in reality of the "Communist peril." Plausible though this argument may sound, I think it worthless.

The dissolution of the Comintern is a logical consequence of Stalin's policy. It follows from his rejection nine years ago of Trotsky's policy of world-wide revolution. Nobody who has watched with understanding the development of Stalin's policy can doubt the sincerity of his desire not to be hampered by the Comintern.

POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE.

An unimpeachable British Socialist authority, the late Mrs. Sidney Webb, who with her husband spent many years in careful study of Soviet Russia wrote last autumn that the foreign policy of the Soviet Government under Stalin has always favoured peace by treaties of non-aggression between the Soviet Union and all other sovereign States "without attempting to interfere with the internal organization of each other's countries."

Mrs. Webb mentioned persistent rumours that Stalin would like to see the Comintern disappear and only hesitated to suppress it because it had been founded by Lenin in 1917. Now the Comintern has decided to suppress itself after having been gradually reduced to impotence. Stalin's influence has doubtless hastened its decision.

During this war, Russian feelings have become increasingly patriotic and less disposed to favour policies of international revolution.

A GENUINE ACT.

This change strengthened the hands of Stalin and other Soviet leaders. I believe that the dissolution of the Comintern expresses this change and is, therefore, a genuine act of Russia's national policy.

The wholesome effects of this act will become more apparent in the future. Relations between the United States and Russia will improve.

SUMMER OFFENSIVE: WHY GERMANY IS DELAYING

FOR some time past both Russia and Germany have seen indications of large-scale attack by the other on different parts of the long front, writes the *Daily Telegraph.*

Yet, according to the standard of the last year, the 1943 campaign is three weeks late. It was May 8, 1942, when the Germans started the offensive which captured the Crimea and penetrated across the Kerch Straits into the Caucasus.

No student of Hitler's intuitions can deny the possibility that he still hopes to reach the Caucasus oilfields, but a sounder reason for the German defence of the bridgehead is that its loss might well enable the Russians to recover the Crimea and strike at the German rear in the Ukraine.

All over Russia the season is earlier than last year. Why have major operations been delayed?

From Leningrad to the Black Sea, the Russians have harassed German forces continuously and effectively by guerilla action and air attacks on supplies and communications. The Luftwaffe has also been busy, though its decline is apparent in such figures as those from the recent Kuban fighting in which 131 German planes were destroyed against 35 Russian.

To concentrate forces for a grand offensive is more difficult than ever for both sides. Germany's enormous losses of men and material cannot be made good with the German industry mutilated. Russia also has grave problems, though her own factories, beyond the reach of the Wehrmacht, are working well and she has received a flow of supplies from her allies.

Germany has still 190 divisions on the Russian front. There was, therefore, the clear reason that the Washington discussions should make it the first principle of the American-British strategy "to take more weight off Russia." The coming storm of the German desperation is likely to be violent, but the Allies have air and land strength which can stretch the Wehrmacht to the breaking point.

TUNISIA UPSETS GERMAN PLANS

There are indications that Axis agents are busy preparing the Axis public for the delay in Hitler's much publicised summer offensive against Russia, cables the *Daily Express* Istanbul correspondent.

While this may be bluff, confidential reports reaching here from Bucharest suggest that Axis offensive plans for 1943 were based on the calculation that Tunis and Bezerta would be held until the end of July. There is ample evidence from the same source that the German High Command had estimated that at least two months must elapse after the completion of Allied conquest of Tunisia in resting, regrouping and refitting before the invasion of Italy or Greece is possible.

OFFENSIVE ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

By that time, it was hoped, that Russia, following an offensive originally planned to be launched as early as May 16, would have bee badly knocked about. This would have permitted safe withdrawal of large forces from the eastern front to defend the Mediterranean frontiers of Hitler's European fortress.

The fall of Tunisia at least two and a half months before the date calculated by the German High Command brought forward the estimated date of Allied invasion to July instead of September. It left only two months for the delivery of the blow against Russia that was a necessary preliminary to the safe withdrawal of troops to the south.

There is a widely held belief among the Balkan military experts to-day that following the events in Africa, Hitler's generals, in particular Keitel, Chief of Staff, have sought to veto the Fuehrer's original plans for an all-out offensive against Russia. They favour a series of heavy local attacks aimed primarily at preventing development of a major Russian drive.

NEW LINE OF PROPAGANDA.

There is no evidence yet as to whether these counsels have prevailed over those favouring the original offensive but the appearance of a new line of propaganda during the last few days suggests that the Keitel group may have got the upper hand.

This new line is that Russia's internal situation, in particular shortage of food, is such that the German armies have only to continue to hold the present front line with strong local attacks for internal collapse to do their work for them without heavy human sacrifices. As an evidence too of the alleged decline in Russian factory production, it is asserted that lately little but British and American material has been in use on the eastern front.

NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STRIKE

Explanations differ but the fact remains that for some reason the enemy is anxious to stress that he will remain on the defensive in Russia, writes the *Daily Express*.

It could of course be an elaborate bluff to persuade the Allies that the German army is being redisposed to meet new threats in Europe in the west and the east. It is known—Mr. Churchill recently disclosed it—that there are 190 German and 29 Satellite divisions facing the Red Army. Any changes on a big scale in this massive total would quickly become obvious to the Russians.

ATTACK DID NOT COME.

The Russians expected an attack west of Moscow three weeks ago and they were ready to meet it. With a milder winter, the ground was fit for big-scale operations then and the enemy was in a position to attack. The attack did not come. Instead, the German resistance in Tunisia unexpectedly collapsed with the mass surrender of a well-equipped army. That may have been the immediate cause of the postponement of the offensive. The mighty air offensive now being waged by Anglo-American forces plus the sustained attacks by the new long-range Russian bomber force on rail communications may be the reason for the continued postponement.

The fact remains that there is no evidence of a general switch round of German troops. Hitler has some 45 divisions in France, the Low Countries and Norway; 10 in the Balkans and 50 held as a strategic reserve in Germany and Poland. To replace the Italians leaving the Balkans, he is drawing on the strategic reserves.

TELLING THE TRUTH.

In addition there were more than 1,000,000 Luftwaffe ground personnel spread over Western Europe and Germany. The Todt Labour organization strengthening the defences of Europe—this is an able-bodied labour of military rejects—totals 1,400,000 men. It may be, therefore that the Berlin propagandists are telling the truth when they announce that there will be no Russian offensive—for the reason that they are not strong enough to undertake it.

A more likely explanation, however, is that the Whrmacht, now immensely strong in defence, is waiting in the hope that the Red Army will open a full-scale offensive and so weaken itself that the Germans will then be able to strike back with a good chance of success. But that it is not so much dependent on the Russians as on the other Allies.

Invasion at selected points, south and west, would dictate to the Germans their future strategy. It is the Allies main aim to make the Whrmacht fight sectionally on the battlefields of our choosing. The length of the war depends on our being able to bring that about.

HOW MANY MILES TO MOSCOW?

By WILLIAM OGILVIE.

[*The following poem which appeared in the* Sunday Graphic, *London, in December 1941 remains as true to-day as it was two years ago.*]

How many miles to Moscow? And still the pale towers stand—
The battlements of freedom, the bulwark of the land.
Round them, in stout resistance, the banded burghers wait—
A million fearless citizens, to guard their western gate.

How many miles to Moscow? Still pile the German dead;
Still rattle in the throbbing sky the dark planes overhead.
And now it is not mile by mile, but foot by weary foot,
While dangles on the distant tree the fair, forbidden fruit.

How many miles to Moscow? That road Napoleon knew,
Who came in guise of conqueror, then wavered and withdrew;
Whose worn and tattered army retrod the trampled snow
Along the miles from Moscow, long bitter miles to go.

How many miles to Moscow? How many, who can say?
And who can count the sle ping dead that line the fateful way?
Remember, Adolf Hitler, even though you batter through,
There broke his heart on Moscow a greater man than you.

RUSSIA'S "BIG FIVE"

SHORTLY after Germany attacked Russia Stalin recognized the necessity of concentrating all power in the State in the hands of a few men. The result of this was that to-day a committee of five, including, besides Stalin, Georgi Maximilianovitch Malenkov, Laurenti Pavlyvoith Beria, Molotov and Timoshenko, possess absolute power. The generals Voroshilov, Budyonny, Shukov, Shaposhnikov and Mertzkov play the part of advisers to this Committee of Defence. The formerly great influence of the People's Commissars has practically vanished.

The names of Molotov and Timoshenko are so well known even outside the Soviet Union that their appointment seems natural, but, on the other hand, the inclusion of Malenkov and Beria was a surprise for many people abroad. Malenkov, a man of thirty-nine, is hardly known beyond the frontiers of the U.S.S.R., although in Russia few people have been so much talked of during the last few years as this clean-shaven, full-faced Great Russian. He comes from the rank and file of the Party and owes his success mostly to his often merciless criticism of the weak points and defects of the local minor party leaders. This method got him into the "Politburo" and the Secretary's Office of the Central Committee. Some politicians succeed by flattery; Malenkov rose by attacking all and sundry. An American journalist has called Malenkov the "Savonarola of Communism." Not without a certain justification, for, like the monk of Florence who attacked the abuses of the Church of his day, Malenkov has always raged and thundered against heretics of the Communist dogma and the corrupt officials of the party machine. He was one of the first and the most violent adversaries of the slogan "A happy life," claiming that Russia had been too complacent and thoughtless and declaring that this had led to a neglect of work and production, which in turn had resulted in the fatal weakness of the Soviet Union during the Munich crisis. [The movement against the slogan of "A happy life," sponsored by Malenkov, actually began in 1936.]

ADMIRABLE METHOD

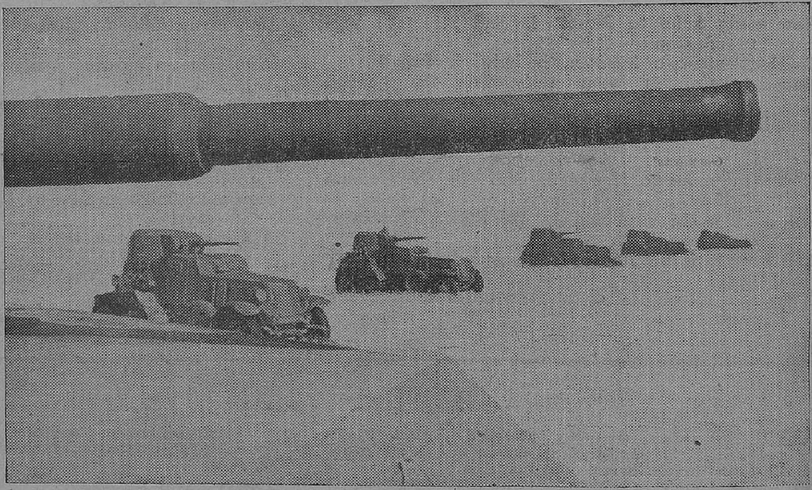
Malenkov was entrusted with the difficult task of persuading the peasants to agree to the abolition of several important social acquisitions and of making them understand the reason for this. His method was admirable: instead of confessing that a return to old reactionary measures was necessary and trying to excuse them, he launched a violent attack against the factory workers, criticizing them in words which no one had dared to use since the beginning of the Russian revolution. In this way he forestalled antagonism between workers and peasants, and gained the approval of the peasants, who enjoyed seeing the "Avant-Garde of the Proletariat" subjected for once to rough treatment.

The appointment of the chief of the OGPU, Beria, was less surprising than that of Malenkov—at least to those who remember what an enormous part the police organization plays in the Soviet regime. Anti-Bolshevik propagandists have tried to depict this clever, well-educated and decidedly dangerous man as the unshaven, uncivilized scoundrel of a gangster-story. In reality, Beria, well-groomed, quiet, his eyes hidden behind pince-nez, reminds one of a successful, rather ruthless American banker. He was born in Stalin's home country, Georgia. At the age of twenty-one he was already assistant to the Chief of the Cheka in Baku. In 1938 Stalin ordered him to come to Moscow. As the successor of Jeshov, who had nearly smashed the whole party machine by his eternal "party purges," Beria showed great moderation. In his spare time this OGPU chief wrote a history of the civil war in the Caucasus. Nevertheless, this does not mean that Beria is a servile and thoughtless flatterer of the

FROM THE RUSSIAN FRONT

[The following pictures taken in April 1943 have been received from Soviet Russia.]

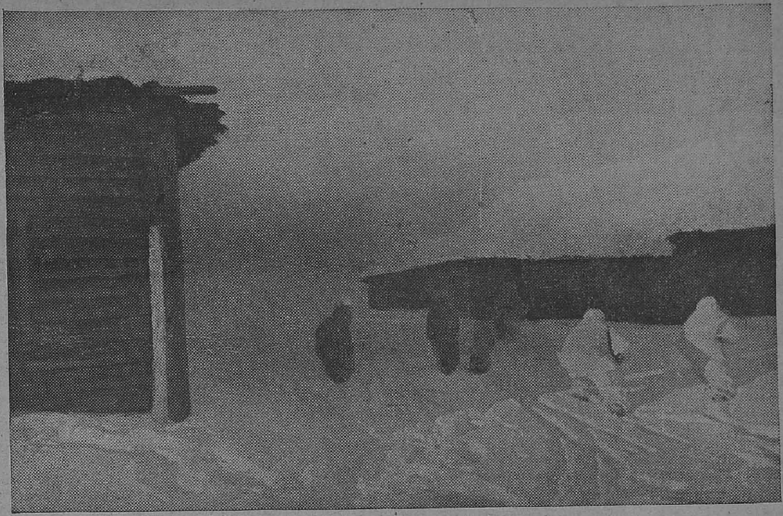
Red Army men sight an enemy plane.



Armoured cars of the Red Army before an attack.

"Our troops have come." A scene of a Russian village liberated from the Germans.

FROM THE RUSSIAN FRONT



Red Army men breaking into a village.

After the Germans' retreat: The Titov family on the site of their house in the village Molodka, Smolensk region, burned down by the Fascists.

German atrocities on the Soviet soil. A school blown up by Germans in village Mashkino, Kursk region. In this village Hitlerites shot or burned forty-three persons.

great. People who ought to know believe him to be the best educated man of those surrounding Stalin. It is unlikely that he ever will become Stalin's successor, because his subtle and captious manner can hardly appeal to the masses. But he will probably unite all the threads of government in his hand and rule "from the wings."

RESIST THE INVADER

Since the "Big Five" took over political life has changed in the Soviet Union. The members of the Central Party Committee spend most of their time touring the country, calling upon the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union to resist the invader. But a close connexion between Party and State is formed by the "Orgburo," which passes the decisions of the Politburo on to the Party officials. In this very important organization Stalin has placed two of the men he most trusts: Andrei Andreievitch Andreiev and Andrei Alexandrovitch Shdanov.

After having been in disgrace for several months Shdanov has once more come into the public eye. Before the first Soviet-Finnish war he was believed to be the most influential man in the Union except Stalin. When the Russians were forced by diplomatic complications, and partly against their will, to make war, Shdanov, who apparently advised that step, was dismissed from favour. Reinstated, this son of an Orthodox priest and one of the best orators of the Party became Party chief in Leningrad. Nowadays, when the possession of the Finnish glacis before Leningrad has become of major importance, Shdanov's authority is on the increase.

But, even after this "come-back," Shdanov is not regarded as the "Crown Prince of Bolshevism"; the second confidant of Stalin in the Orgburo—Andreiev—suits this part much better. President of the Control Committee of the Party, an institution which annually analyses the membership of the Party and examines the reliability of the members, this rather charming and good-looking man naturally possesses great influence. Although he is only forty-six he is looked upon as an "old Bolshevik." Born in Smolensk, Andreiev earned his first kopeks as a page in a St. Petersburg hotel. He was by turns munition worker, secretary of a trade union and, after the revolution, People's Commissar for Transport.

DECIDING FATE OF THE WORLD

Since the war the Committee for Control of the Army has been strengthened. Voroshilow, who had been its chief, was replaced after taking over the command of the Northern Army by Shadenko, the People's Commissar for Oil; Shadenko is assisted by Mechlis, who, by the way, is, with the exceuption of Kaganovitch, the only Jew in the government of the Soviet Union.

The Committee for Propaganda has been enlarged and endowed with enormous sums. The whole propaganda organization is controlled by a special body which answers solely to the Central Party Committee. Its leader, Kreissin, has organized "shock-troops for poetry," led by Jarov. During the last few months the soldier's songs of Demian Biedny, who had been in disgrace for some time, have again become very popular. Another personality who has come into the limelight since the beginning of the war is "old" Party member Lozowsky, the spokesman of the Foreign Office. He has become the mouthpiece of the Soviets and is a joy to all foreign journalists.

These are the new men who have become prominent during recent months– their names should be as well-known abroad as they are known today in the Soviet Union, for it is upon them that the fate of the world largely rests—(Condensed from DIE WELTWOCHE, Zurich.

GLORY OF THE RED ARMY

By ALEXEI TOLSTOY

THE Red Army has struck at the heart of the Donetz basin, has taken Rostov and Kharkov and reached the coast of the Sea of Azov.

Tempestuous and powerful is the offensive of the Red Army whose soldiers have taken in their stride impregnable strongholds and lines of fortifications once regarded as miracles of military engineering.

In this unparalleled battle Germans have begun to perish or surrender in whole formations. They have no time as they retreat to blow up their dumps and render their equipment useless. They have still not lost the German self-assurance or conception of racial superiority that has been hammered into their heads—soon they will lose it; they will perish desperately resisting in beleagured towns—but they, together with their divine Caesar, Adolph, are already depressed and shaken by the fact that Russia has proved stronger than Germany. Despite their magnificent organization and technical equipment, despite their exploitation of the arsenals of the whole of occupied Europe, and despite their conversion of every German into an automaton having but one idea of advancing and destroying every living thing—the German army has proved weaker than the Red Army.

SAVED THEIR SKINS

Why did Field-Marshal Von Paulus and his twenty-four German Generals not shoot themselves but, guessing that "the situation was extremely dangerous" hang dirty white napkins out of their dug-outs? In similar circumstances in 1941 it is quite possible that they would have blown out their brains. Such a gesture could result from a particularly arrogant mood—in a moment of funeral exultation to throw oneself under the wheels of the triumphant chariot of Germany. But if the cause which these generals served is lost, if there is no faith in victory, if thoughts of the maddened Fuehrer bring nothing but disgust, then why sacrifice one's life? And Field-Marshal Von Paulus with his twenty-four generals resolved to save their skins which would later be of some personal use to them.

If, however, the German Field-Marshals and Generals think and act like this, what can be the mood of the grey Germany soldiery? No so good. The Hitlerite army is held together by a government of dull stupidity and drill. These are still strong enough and the Red Army will have to deliver a number of heavy blows before the German war-machine comes to its senses.

PSYCHOLOGY OF GERMANS

Three Germans who came over to our side stated during interrogation that there had been nine soldiers in their dug-out, the tenth being a corporal. All nine of them had agreed to surrender to the Russians, but the corporal, when he went to sleep, kept his feet pressed against the door. One night the corporal went to a brothel and the soldiers said to one another, "lucky chance", and set out to crawl to the Russian lines. Their own people fired on them and only three arrived out of nine. They were asked, "how is it that nine of you were afraid of one corporal: you could have killed him and gone out whenever it was convenient." The Germans looked at each other and answered, "It never entered our heads to do that."

Many Russians are going to their death as are the Germans: The important thing in gaining victory is what they are going to death for. The moral plane of the task involved determines the soldier's tension of spirit, endurance, valour and his fury in battle. The war has entered that concluding phase when the Russian, delivering blows, becomes stronger and the German warding them off and retreating no longer remembers why he has to die.

ANGER OF REVENGE.

The Russian soldier knows the anger of revenge, the wrath and pain at the countless ash-heaps, at suffering ruin and at the deaths of millions of his compatriots. He knows the ever-growing ardour of the offensive and has an unshakable faith in the fact that after the war, when wounds are healed up, his whole native land will blossom forth as never before.

Confident of Final Victory

Shakespeare makes the great republican Brutus say of the assassination of the tyrant Cæsar: "As fire drives out fire, so pity pity."

Force can be defeated only by force. The valiant armies of my country are fighting against Hitler, the arch-fiend of humanity.

In this fateful hour we, actors of Soviet Russia, are with our Red Army heart and soul. All our energies are directed toward the achievement of victory. The fight our people are waging is no easy one, but we are confident of final victory.

And we declare, with our great poet Pushkin
"Hail the sun"
And let the darkness vanish

—V. J. KACHALOV, *a leading actor of Moscow Art Theatre.*

RUSSIA'S GREAT LEADERS

Marshal TIMOSHENKO

Marshal VOROSHILOV

M. STALIN

Marshal MAISKY

Marshal BUDENNY

RED ARMY PASSES WORLD EXAMINATION

By NIKOLAI TIKHONOV

IN December 1939, I found in a satchel of a Finnish dragoon a notebook which contained, among pictures of movie stars, a sketch, almost a caricature, of the Red Army man. It was not meant to be a caricature, however; it was the Finnish soldier's idea of what a Red Army man is like: the picture showed a horrible, bearded man with a knife stuck behind his belt, wearing an enormous great-coat with purple stripes across his chest and a strange hat. He looked more like the medieval Russian warrior from an opera possessing not a single trait in common with the real Soviet soldier. Our enemies knew little of the true nature of the Soviet soldier. The Finns came to know him a little better when the applauded Mannerheim Defence Line fell in 1940.

At the start of the robbers' campaign in the U.S.S.R., the German army periodicals indulged in cheap tricks calculated to produce effect. They carried faked photographs in which the Red Army men were depicted as ragged and fearful looking "Mujiks", not much different from the Finnish version, surrounded by spick and span Germans. The Nazis knew little about the Red Army men at the time. They still believed in the lies manufactured by Goebbels' propaganda machine. Later, during the terrible winter nights of 1941, at Moscow-Leningrad, Tikhvin and Rostov they smiled no longer. The cold twisted their smiles and the Russian artillery forced them to hide their heads.

"LIKE A PEOPLE POSSESSED."

Soon after the German generals of propaganda began to enquire in their articles what the matter was, wherein the cause of Russian resistance lay? For a long time they sought an answer to this momentous question until they found words suitable for their purpose. "The Russians resist so stubbornly because they have no faith in life after death. They fight like a people possessed".

Yes, the Red Army men are possessed by the idea of driving the German invaders off the Soviet territory, and destroying them. The source of the Red Army's strength still remains a mystery to the bandits who are after other people's property. The very foundation of the Red Army, its close unity with the people, its kinship with the soil, its selfless devotion, its heroic exploits for the sake of the homeland, all this explained nothing to the German because he could not understand a single one of these ideals.

Advancing deeper into Russia, he could only instinctively feel that he was in for a life-and-death struggle from which he could not hope to emerge alive. His only hope was based on what he had been told and retold since childhood: that the German army was an invincible army, that the skill of its generals was unsurpassed, that nobody could stand up to the German pincers. With this dull self-confidence, the German invaders marched boldly over the Don steppes, hurled themselves into the Stalingrad furnace, crawled to the depth of the Caucasian canyon: held pill-boxes on the Neva banks. They found encouragement in the names of Schlieffen, Moltke, Ludendorf, Hindenburg, Brauchitsch, Reichenau and other high priests of the German School.

TURNED THEIR HEADS.

They did not suspect what a strategic genius would deal with them under Stalingrad's walls and, although they became more cautious after the Moscow setback and unsuccessful attacks on Leningrad, the summer offensive turned their heads. All the more horrifying for them was the last vision: they died without understanding what had occurred.

And what occurred was very simple. It seems clear now that there are ways of fighting so effectively that the enormous German Shock Army, with a Field-Marshal and two dozen Generals at the head, was obliged to surrender after receiving a drubbing so terrific that surrender seemed the natural outcome of the Stalingrad battle. The much-publicized German military art is fast receding into the past. It is the victorious strategy of the Red Army that the historians of the future will study with admiration.

TORN THE LAURELS.

The Red Army has passed the world examination. The Red Army has come a long way. It has trained remarkable officers and men. It has struck terror into the heart of its most powerful foe. It is liberating its native land from the oppressor's yoke and it bears in mind the fact that its ultimate aim is the deliverance of the people groaning in fascist chains. It has broken the impudent arrogance of the German strategists. It has torn from Hitler's head, the laurels of dubious victories, and delivered a blow so terrible in force that the very backbone of fascist Germany has cracked.—(*Tass*).

SOVIET PILOTS COVER THEMSELVES WITH GLORY

By MAJOR POSTOLOVSKY

IT seems as if it were only yesterday when a plane flew over the Red Square during the celebration of the first anniversary of the November Revolution! It was an old machine, of the type of "Voisin". It was piloted by the oldest Russian flier, Boris Rosinsky, pupil of Bleriot. Lenin watched the plane during the parade with the keenest interest.

That was a quarter of a century ago. Just before the German attack on the Soviet Union, during May Day and November Parades, in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and dozens of other towns, thousands of planes took part in the reviews.

People had to exert all their energy during the execution of Stalin's Five-Year Plans to create such a mighty airforce.

Hitler had, on numerous occasions, declared that aircraft was the weapon for the German military forces, and that the Slavs were incapable of understanding aviation.

Yet the Soviet Airforce defeated the German Airforce in air combats for Moscow, Leningrad and Stalingrad.

PATRIOTIC WAR.

The great patriotic war of the Soviet peoples against the German invaders has proved the superiority of the Soviet planes and Soviet pilots over the German aircraft and fliers. German machines are not better than Soviet planes and Soviet pilots have proved that they are better trained and possess greater courage than German pilots.

Who on the Soviet-German front applied the frontal attacks? The Russian pilots. Who repeated on a wide scale the deadly ram first applied by the Russian pilot—Nesterov—against the Austrians and Germans in the first World War? The Russian pilots.

Who followed the example set by that son of the Russian peoples—Captain Gastello—who thrust his machine into the midst of the column of German tanks sacrificing, for the sake of his homeland, his life as well as plane? The Russian pilots. Not a single German aviator dared to apply any of these methods of warfare of the Soviet pilots. But the fascist pilots specialised in destroying peaceful towns and villages, women, children and old men. They merited their name of "pirates of the air".

GERMANS FEAR SOVIET AIRMEN.

Numerous letters and statements of German pilots who have been taken prisoners show how German pilots fear the Soviet fliers. Hitler sent hundreds of transport planes to bring up supplies and ammunition to his encircled 6th Army. But the Soviet airforce frustrated their attempt. There were days when the Soviet fighters and "Stormoviks" shot down as many as 50—60 "Junkers 52".

The statement of the German pilot, Fred Sernetski, whose machine was shot down near Stalingrad, is very characteristic in this respect:

> "German losses in aircraft in the late period of operations in Stalingrad were tremendous. Every pilot who received an assignment believed that would be his last flight. Even the most skilled pilots unwillingly got into their machines. Some pilots wrote farewell letters before the take off".

The Soviet Airforce has played a very important part in the war. It helped land troops in defence operations destroying the enemy armoured machines, destroying the enemy's communications and bombed targets in the deep rear.

IT HAPPENED NEAR LENINGRAD

By CONSTANTIN PAUSTOVSKY

THE thunderstorm had raged all night in the Ala-Tau mountains. In the morning the livid sky still looked menacing, with dark thunder clouds slowly moving just above the mountain tops.

A green grasshopper, frightened perhaps by the claps of thunder, had found refuge on the lace curtain. The wild peonies in the glass on the window still formed a vivid patch of colour. We could hear the swift rush of water from the bottom of the gorge nearby.

Captain Rudnev lifted his bandaged head, and raised himself from the hospital cot on one elbow. He looked pensively at the lace curtain and the grasshopper.

"Yes, this is Asia" he said at last, "but that lace curtain reminds one of the lace they make at home in the North. And I suppose that it might have been woven by the fingers of some pretty girl like Nastia."

He smiled sadly and reminiscently. I looked at him inquiringly.

"It happened in my battery near Leningrad," he went on.

He told the story to me, and I want to retell it to you who are separated from Russia by hundreds and perhaps thousands of miles of land and sea.

In the spring of 1941, Balashov, a Leningrad artist, had left for the North to do some shooting and painting.

He got off the old river steamer at the first village that pleased his eye and rented a room in the house of the village teacher. In the same village lived Nastia, daughter of the local forest-keeper and famed in those parts for her skill in lace-making and for her good looks. She was grey-eyed and not given to words, a true daughter of the Russian North.

One day, during a hunting trip, her father's shotgun went off by accident and Balashov was wounded in the breast. He was brought to his room in the teacher's house and the forest-keeper, dejected and frightened, asked his daughter to nurse Balashov. She tended him with the greatest devotion, and, as often happens with women, pity for the sick man gave birth to love, her first real love. But she was reserved and shy, and the man was ignorant of the emotions that had arisen in that gentle heart.

He had a wife in Leningrad but as he never spoke of her, even to Nastia, all in the village thought he was an unmarried man.

When the wound healed, Balashov left for Leningrad. On the eve of his departure he came uninvited to Nastia's log cabin to thank her for her nursing. He brought her some presents as a token of his gratitude. She accepted them.

Now this was Balashov's first visit to the North and he did not know the local customs. One of them is that if a man calls uninvited on a girl and brings her presents, it means that he wishes to marry her. If the girl accepts the presents, she agrees to become his wife. Such is the language of love in the North.

Tears of joy glistened in the girl's eyes. Her dreams had come true. She timidly asked Balashov when he would return from Leningrad. Balashov jokingly replied that he would be back very soon.

Balashov left and long days of waiting came for the girl. Summer passed and the long, gloomy days of autumn came. But Balashov did not come. Nastia's joyful impatience and expectation gave way to anxiety, melancholy and a feeling of shame. It was whispered in the village that the young man had deceived her but still Nastia's faith held. She was sure that some mishap had befallen Balashov.

Spring brought Nastia new pangs. It was a late, long spring. The spring floods were heavier than usual and the rivers seemed reluctant to re-enter their banks. It was only in the beginning of June that the first steamer passed the village.

Nastia's mind was made up. She would go to Leningrad without her father's knowledge and find Balashov. One night she left her father's house and after two days of walking, reached the nearest railway. At the station she learnt that war had broken out that morning.

Joyless and dispirited, the peasant girl, who had never before seen a train, made her way through a country that was girding its loins for battle against the invader.

She eventually reached Leningrad and found Balashov's flat.

The front door was opened by Balashov's wife—florid, red-haired, pyjama-clad, with a cigarette hanging from her lips. She eyed the visitor with cold suspicion. No, Balashov was not at home. He had been called up and was at the front somewhere near Leningrad. There was derision and cutting scorn in her voice and look. Was this the pretty peasant girl who had caused the rift between her husband and herself?

For the first time Nastia realized that Balashov was a married man. So he had deceived her, mocked her love. She could say nothing in reply to this taw-dry, painted woman. She turned and fled. In her agony she walked with unseeing eyes through the streets of the majestic city which was buckling on its armour for the impending battle. She noticed neither the anti-aircraft guns stationed in the city squares, the sandbag-protected monuments, nor the gardens and the beautiful buildings that are the pride of this fair city.

She reached the Neva. Enclosed in granite embankments, its swift, dark waters raced on towards the sea. It was here, in the water, that her wounded heart would find peace and rest. She took off her shawl, her mother's present, and carefully placed it on the parapet. She swung back two heavy plaits of hair and placed a foot on the cast-iron railing.

Somebody seized her by the hand. She turned her head. A man in yellow-stained overalls, carrying the brushes of a floorpolisher, stood behind her. He shook his head in reproof.

"You've chosen the wrong time, you silly girl," he said and led her off to his house and placed her in the care of his wife, a bustling, determined woman with a hearty contempt for the stronger sex. The girl, sick in body and soul, was sheltered by the Trofimovs, who nursed her through the dangerous illness that ensued. It was from Trofimov's wife that Nastia learnt that Balashov had not been to blame, that it was hard to expect a stranger to the North to be familiar with the customs of those parts, that only "village simpletons like Nastia could fall in love at first sight."

Thus the worthy Mrs. Trofimov did not in the least spare the girl's feelings; joy welled up in Nastia's heart, joy that Balashov had not deceived her, that she might hope to see him again.

Very soon Trofimov was called up. Nastia remained with his wife.

When Nastia had regained her health, her friend arranged for the girl to join a Red Cross nurses' school. She delighted her instructors by the aptitude she showed in her studies, her skill in bandaging wounds and the dexterity of her deft and nimble fingers. "But I'm used to working with my fingers. I'm a lace maker," Nastia would reply when complimented on her work.

The Leningrad winter dragged on, with the icy grip of its freezing nights, its endless cannonade, the fortitude of the city's defenders, their confidence in ultimate victory. Nastia completed her course of training and was waiting to be drafted into the forces on active service. At night her tears would often wet her pillow when she thought of Balashov and her father. Till his dying day the old man would never understand why she had gone off into the night.

Spring came and Nastia was sent to the front near Leningrad. In the ruined gardens of the palaces that surround the city, in dug-out or battery, in thicket or meadow, in trench or charred village, she had the same question on her lips—was Balashov known to any of the fighting men?

Quite by chance, she met Trofimov in the front line during a lull in the fighting, and that talkative man lost no time in telling his comrades the story of the girl from the North and her Odyssey in search of the man she loved.

The story appealed to the imagination of the fighters, to their innate love of the romantic, their appreciation of devotion. The tale spread, travelled from unit to unit, reached the most outlying sectors of the front. It was carried by dispatch-riders, lorry drivers. Red Cross workers and signalmen.

The soldiers envied the lucky man, and, in envying him, each of them thought of his near and dear ones. As the girl's figure grew legendary, the men moulded her description to their own imagination adding and changing the details and making her a native of their own parts. The Ukrainian was ready to swear that she hailed from his own land, so did the Siberian, and the native of the Urals, and even the almond-eyed Kazakh felt almost sure that such devotion could be born only in the far-off sun-baked steppes of Kazakhstan.

The story reached the coastal battery where Balashov was serving and he too shared the general feeling for the unknown girl, her unswerving love. His thoughts often

turned to her and he even caught himself at moments experiencing something akin to envy of the lucky fellow she loved. How could he ever suspect that it was himself that he envied.

His private life was an empty husk, his marriage a miserable failure. How often he had dreamed of just this kind of love, real love. It was too late now; he was turning grey at the temples and who knew whether he would come out of the war alive?

It so happened that Nastia at last found Balashov's battery, but she was two days late. He had fallen in action and had been buried in a pine-wood not far from the shore of the gulf.

Rudnev paused here and was silent for some minutes.

"What happened then?" I asked him.

"Then?" repeated Rudnev, "Oh, Balashov's men fought like tigers. Our guns pulverised the German defences. Our men were mad with rage. They made Jerry pay for everything, for their Prussian swinishness, for the sufferings of all peoples . . ."

"And the girl?"

"Nastia is giving all her time, all her devotion, to care for the wounded. She's the finest nurse in our sector of the front."

Rudnev stopped. The dark storm clouds were clearing away and patches of bright blue sky were appearing. The grasshopper came to life, crawled up the curtain, hopped on to the wild peonies, and suddenly disappeared.

"The fellow was asleep a long time" said Rudnev. "I've had time to tell you a long, sad story."

He glanced at the mountains, their gleaming translucent snow-capped peaks, the huge disc of the sun that lit up the fringe of the rapidly disappearing clouds and turned the patches of blue sky a brilliant sapphire.

Outside the window everything in nature seemed imbued with fresh life. The shrill chirping of grasshoppers, the song of birds and the music of the torrent could reach our ears.

"India begins beyond those mountains?" Rudnev asked suddenly.

"Yes," I replied.

He was silent.

"Life will be like to-day when victory is won," said Rudnev, nodding in the direction of the window.

—(*S.U.N.*).

STALIN IN COMPLETE HARMONY WITH CHURCHILL AND ROOSEVELT

GOOD news has been coming our way these last few days: victory over the Atlantic U-boats, smashing of bases in Sicily and Sardinia, withdrawal of Italian troops from the Balkans and the announcement of agreement in Washington.

We count also as good news such straight talks as Mr. Eden gave to Italy and to any neutrals who share Mussolini's horror of bombing.

Bombs are our medicine for the bullfrog's bombast. There is no escape for the Italian people while they tolerate his sordid regime.

But the best news of all is the statement by by Joseph Davies, American President's special envoy in Moscow. Before he sets off to America with Stalin's reply to Roosevelt in a large envelope, he tells how Stalin spoke with great gratification of the meeting in Washington.

"These three know each other's mind" says Mr. Davies of Messrs. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. The growing contact and the bond of sympathy between the three great leaders is one of the major blessings in this period of waiting. Armies are poised for battle, fleets are at the alert on the sea and in the air. It is a source of immense satisfaction to know that the men, who are really in charge of our destinies, are in complete harmony.

Outside the staffs, even the best informed do not know what was decided. "Neither do German and Japanese generals," comments the New York *Herald Tribune*. "They are now compelled to stretch their forces around the whole of the vast frontiers they have recklessly conquered and to await the blows they have so long enjoyed giving."—*Daily Express*.

The Time has Now Come

I remember Maxim Gorki, kind, yet stern and steeled in battle. One day, some four months before his death, Gorki was sitting with eyes half-closed, listening to the radio reports about the Italian invasion of Ethiopia. With every word his face grew more overcast; his brows were knit, and he kept stroking his rough moustache. Finally he got up, switched off the radio, and said in his soft voice, as though speaking to himself:

"When will those cutthroats be stopped? How much longer will they roam around footloose?"

Gorki did not live to see the present war. But he died in the firm belief that the Fascist cutthroats would in the end be curbed and securely strait-jacketed. The time has now come.

—S. MARSHAK, *popular Soviet author and translator of English poetry.*

THE STALIN FORMULA

Major Lewis Hastings seems to have found the answer to this question in Louis Fischer's book, *Men and Politics.*

'Fischer has spent many long years in Russia,' he told listeners in a recent *War Commentary*. 'He is by no means wholly sympathetic to Stalin. He is all the more a good witness. Now this is what he says about the famous six-hour interview at which he was present, between Joseph Stalin and a group of distinguished Americans some years ago. "Stalin does not wave the magic wand of a magnetic personality, but as he talked to us, hour after hour, my respect for his strength, will and faith grew. He built up this impression as he built up his political position—slowly, methodically, brick by brick. He was pedestrian, solid and simple. His statements interested professors of Economy and would have been intelligible to factory hands. His mentality lacked the witty epigram, but he ploughed long and deep. His complete composure, complete absence of nerves, and his calm voice, reflected inner power. One could see that he might be a man of iron."

'Composure, complete absence of nerves, calm voice. A contrast, that, to Hitler, isn't it? I don't mean to underestimate Hitler. There has been enough of that. He is a sort of genius—an evil genius. But his mind works in a groove. He puts his faith in surprise and terror, treachery and corruption—and they have well served his turn. These drugs are useless now for ever against the Russians. They are of the kind that can be used once with great effect. But they are no good a second time.

'Composure, absence of nerves, calm. This is the Stalin formula. I think, in the long run, it will prove the formula of victory.'

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

10TH JUNE.—Lord Selborne, Minister of Economic Warfare, said that bombing had greatly accelerated the slow rot inside German economy. It was estimated that industrial production had shown a decline of anything from 15 to 20 per cent.

The *Daily Mail's* Naval Correspondent wrote: "Hitler is already recalling his U-boats from the Atlantic to defend his European fortress from invasion."

11TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. destroyed four German planes during offensive operations over Northern France and Belgium.

12TH JUNE.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command delivered a highly concentrated attack on Duesseldorf. Several other targets in Munster, Ruhr and Rhineland were also attacked.

American aircraft attacked German ports and shipyards off Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven.

According to *The Aftonbladet*, there were concentrations of light invasion ships in the British Channel ports.

13TH JUNE.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked the Central Ruhr and Bochum. American planes raided Kiel and Bremen.

German planes raided south-west coast town. There was some hostile air activity over the coast of Kent. Four German aircraft were destroyed.

14TH JUNE.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command laid mines in enemy waters. Objectives in Rhineland and elsewhere were attacked. An enemy convoy was attacked off the Dutch coast. American aircraft attacked Flushing. German submarine and naval centres of Kiel and Bremen were also attacked.

Incendiary bombs were dropped by German aircraft on a residential part of north-east England coastal town.

Mr. Alfred Dobbs, Chairman of the Labour Party's Annual Conference, declared that nothing short of unconditional surrender by the Axis powers would ensure lasting peace.

United Nations' Day was celebrated throughout the world.

15TH JUNE.—The Ministry of Home Security revealed that 584 civilians were killed as the result of German air raids on the United Kingdom during May.

Heavy bombers attacked targets in Western Ruhr, particularly in Oberhausen.

The *New York Times* reported mass evacuations from bombed German cities.

The German controlled Paris Radio stated that it was likely Allied invasion would begin this week.

16TH JUNE.—It was revealed that Hitler had prepared two defence lines, one if Allied landings succeed and another on the frontiers of the Reich.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

10TH JUNE.—Col. Knox, Navy Secretary, said: "To-day there are eight fronts—the Western Mediterranean, Eastern Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the South Atlantic, the South Pacific, the North Pacific, Russia and China."

11TH JUNE.—Emil Ludwig, the German biographer, made the prediction in his testimony published by the United States House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee: "Hitler will be assassinated soon—and by his own men." Ludwig also predicted that German nerves would collapse under continued United Nations' aerial attack and it would not be necessary to invade Germany.

12TH JUNE.—The U.S. War Department announced the development of a 2½ tons six-wheeled amphibian lorry nicknamed "the duck" capable of moving troops, weapons and supplies over land and by water.

14TH JUNE.—Mr. Paul V. McNutt, Chief of the United States War Man Power Commission, revealed that 1,700,000 men would be added to the United States armed forces in the next six months.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

10TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. bombed objectives at Kalewa.

11TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. attacked the jetty at Rathedaung and objectives at Buthidaung.

12TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. attacked objectives on Akyab Island. Enemy positions at Pheizang were bombed. Enemy railroad installations at Ywataung and Thazi junction were also bombed.

13TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. attacked the river jetty south of Buthidaung. The railroad bridge at Myitnge was damaged. Targets in Mandalay and Sagaing were also attacked.

14TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. attacked Japanese positions in the Kale valley. The Taungu pass road was also attacked.

A column of British, Indian and Burmese troops, part of the Wingate expedition into Burma, arrived back in India from China.

15TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. attacked Akyab jetty and wireless station. Japanese troop position on the Mayu Peninsula and the Kalemyo area was machinegunned.

It was revealed that in a six day battle for Chin Hills in the last week of May, the Japanese suffered 500 casualties.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

10TH JUNE.—Commenting on the third anniversary of Italy's entry into war, Mr. Cordell Hull said: "Mussolini has been false to all his people and false to every law and rule of organized society."

The Rome Radio said: "The last defenders of Pantelleria are prepared for a possible landing attempt by the enemy . . . The enemy is at the same time encircling the small island of Lambedusa."

United States Liberators dropped over a quarter million pounds of bombs on Berbini and Catania. Twenty-four Axis aircraft were destroyed on the ground.

It was revealed that immense devatation was caused in 30 areas in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia by the continuous bombing of ports, airfields and other military objectives between May 15 and 31.

11TH JUNE.—*The island of Pantelleria surrendered and was occupied by Allied troops.*

President Roosevelt, commenting on the surrender of Pantelleria, told the Italian people that their choice of Government would be free once the Germans were driven from Italy and the Fascist regime was overthrown.

Senator Gurney of the Military Affairs Committee said that the seizure of Pantelleria would be of "inestimable value" to the Allies in improving their shipping situation in the Mediterranean.

Thirty-seven German aircraft were shot down over Pantelleria. The destruction of that island was so great that it came to be known as "Hell's Island."

British Commandos made a scouting raid on Lampedusa island.

A political crisis developed in North Africa. General de Gaulle threatened to resign unless a complete purge was effected of the pro-Vichy elements in the upper ranks of the French Army.

12TH JUNE.—*It was officially announced that Lanpedusa had surrendered.*

Col. Knox, United States Navy Secretary, said: "There are several islands yet to take before the Mediterranean is completely cleared."

The R.A.F. attacked the airfield at Reggio Di Calabria.

The French Committee of National Liberation reached an agreement regarding the discharge of high army officers with an anti-Allied Fascist or Petainist background.

13TH JUNE.—*The island of Linosa surrendered.*

Flying Fortresses attacked Castel Vetnano in Sicily—the next stepping stone to the Italian mainland. Bocca Di Falco and Milo were also attacked.

The Rome Radio predicted Allied attacks against Sardinia and Sicily.

The Moscow Radio commentator said: "What is taking place to-day in the Mediterranean is a prelude to a great offensive."

14TH JUNE.—*The Italian island of Lampione was captured.*

United States bombers attacked the aerodromes at Gerbini and Catania.

It was revealed that Signor Mussolini personally ordered the surrender of Pantelleria.

The German Overseas Radio stated that 43 British tank-landing craft had arrived at Gibraltar.

15TH JUNE.—Targets in Sicily were attacked.

The Royal Air Force attacked an enemy schooner in the Aegian Sea.

The Morocco Radio stated that 18,000 Axis prisoners were taken at Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Linosa.

16TH JUNE.—According to Reuter's Special Correspondent in Algiers, the air assault in the Mediterranean had begun in full force. Successful raids were carried out against Sicilian aerodromes.

Nazi attempts to raid Pantelleria was beaten off.

It was anticipated that Allied airborne troops would be tested against Sicily.

His Majesty the King visited the British First and Eighth Armies, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force in North Africa. [On a previous occasion, His Majesty visited the British Army in France early in 1940.]

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

10TH JUNE.—The Communists International officially came to an end.

A German attempt to attack Soviet positions was beaten off in the area of Lisichansk. Two companies of Germans were wiped out on the Leningrad front.

The Red Air Force attacked six German airfields. One hundred and fifty to 160 German planes were destroyed. Large munition and fuel dumps were blown up.

11TH JUNE.—More German trains and supply dumps were bombed in Lisichansk area. Several Germans were killed in engagements on the Central, Leningrad and Karelian front.

Soviet submarines sank two German escort vessels and one transport off the Latvian coast.

12TH JUNE.—There was a flare-up on the eastern front. Fighting occurred in the Orel sector. According to Reuter's special correspondent, in 96 hours, between 400 and 500 German planes were destroyed by the Russian air force.

13TH JUNE.—Soviet aircraft, in great force, raided German airfields and destroyed a large number of Axis aircraft.

14TH JUNE.—Soviet aircraft raided the raiway junctions of Gomel and Briansk and the railway station of Karachev.

16TH JUNE.—The Leningrad Radio said that the Red Army would launch an offensive the moment the Allies invaded the Continent.

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SHIPPING

11TH JUNE.—The Cuban naval forces sank a German submarine in a battle off the north coast of the island.

12TH JUNE.—The United States submarines *Amberjack* and *Grampus* were lost.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

11TH JUNE.—Both United States and Paraguay decided to recognize the new Argentine Government.

The British Government decided to recognize the new Argentine Government.

The German Overseas Radio announced that the new Argentine Government had been recognized by Germany.

12TH JUNE.—Vice-Admiral Storni, the new Argentine Foreign Minister, said that Argentina's foreign relations were rightly directed towards a closer collaboration with American countries.

The Vichy Government and Honduras recognized the new Argentine Government.

15TH JUNE.—The German Radio said that British authorities had closed the Syrian frontier bordering on Turkey.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

13TH JUNE.—The Morocco Radio told the French people: "Soon French, American and British troops will land in France equipped with overwhelming war material. Do not act yet, remain calm and patient until you receive our instructions."

Yugoslav guerillas, led by General Mihailovich, were reported to be waiting for the invasion signal order to take up arms in a co-ordinated revolt against the Axis.

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THE FAR EAST

10TH JUNE.—The Chinese stormed into the town of Yingcheng. There was heavy fighting on the outskirts of the town.

It was revealed that five Japanese divisions were repulsed in the Battle of Ichang.

Mr. James Forrestal, United States Under Secretary of the Navy, said: "Japan's fleet has been nailed in its own bases, while aerial bombings are beginning to soften the fortress of Europe."

Mr. John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister, said: "I believe we can hold Australia as a base from where to launch both a limited and a major offensive against Japan."

11TH JUNE.—Allied heavy aircraft dropped nearly 40 tons of bombs on Japanese aircraft concentrations at Rabaul.

The Japanese counter-attacked the Chinese at Uchikow.

The *Washington Post* wrote: "Japanese offensive power has been so blunted that it is doubtful whether she could now repeat anywhere her early success."

Three Japanese aircraft were destroyed over Hengyang by American planes.

12TH JUNE.—American bombers attacked targets in Indo-China.

Chinese troops entered Kinhwa, the last Japanese air-base in the Province of Chekiang, 650 *miles from Japan, one of the three great air bases from which Tokyo could be bombed.*

The Chinese troops further completely recaptured Sungtze. The Chinese recovered possession of vast rice-growing districts south of the Yangtse between Hankow and Ichang—perhaps the richest in all China.

14TH JUNE.—Allied air forces raided the Vunakanu airfield at Rabaul in New Britain, Gusmata, Dilli in Dutch Timor and Koepang. Flying Fortresses attacked Japanese positions in the Kahili-Buin area.

The Chinese recaptured Kungan in Southern Hupeh Province. The Japanese fled in confusion from Sungtze. Chinese forces resumed the offensive in Central Chekiang.

15TH JUNE.—Japanese planes bombed Guadalcanar. Colonel Knox, United States Navy Secretary, said that the anti-submarine campaign was going on satisfactorily.

United States submarines sank 12 Axis ships, one probably sunk and three damaged in the Pacific and Far Eastern waters.

16TH JUNE.—General Tojo said: "Our nation will fight this war to the finish and with determination . . . There situation is tense . . . There are increasing signs of a pending British and American offensive on a large scale."

Hunting tigers—A sideline

When the Chin levies, tribesmen in the Chin Hills on the borders of Burma and India, are not hunting Japanese they quite often turn their attentions to the shooting of tiger instead.

A tiger growling round the Chins' camp in Japanese-occupied territory was shot at and wounded. Next day the Chins followed a trail of blood into the jungle and eventually kill d it.

This is not the first time the C. ins have found tigers instead of Japs. Another patrol recently nearly fell over a tiger. The Chins were very angry, they could not follow it but very shortly afterwards they ran into their re.l enemy—the Japs.

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